

# Constitutional Defense Council

## Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

Olmsted Room

Utah State Capitol Complex

Senate Building

August 19, 2010

11:30 AM

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

#### Members:

Greg Bell, Lt. Governor  
Clare Ramsay, Commissioner, Garfield County  
Bart Whatcott, Commissioner, Millard County  
Riley Cutler, GOED  
Michael McKee, Commissioner, Uintah County  
Michael Noel, Representative, Utah House of Representatives  
Dennis Stowell, Senator, Utah Senate  
Jim Gowans, Representative, Utah House of Representatives

Mike Styler, Director, Department of Natural Resources

Kevin Carter, Director, SITLA  
Leonard Blackham, UDAF  
Brent Goodfellow, Senator, Utah Senate

#### Guests:

John Andrews, SITLA  
Kathleen Clark, UDAF  
Amy O'Donoghue, *Deseret News*

#### Staff:

John Harja, Director, PLPCO  
Judy Edwards, PLPCO  
Clare Duignan, PLPCO  
Mike Mower, GOPB

Lt. Governor Greg Bell called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

#### Recent Court Decision Concerning Wolves – Martin Bushman

- August 5, 2010, 9th district federal court decision. Rocky Mountain wolves are now listed as endangered.
- Cannot kill wolves in Utah without a federal permit.
- Procedurally, DWR is waiting to see if there is an appeal.
- The Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to delisting.
- Lt. Governor asked if there is anything Utah can do to work with Wyoming on this issue. Work for an area wide plan. He asked Mike Styler to explore where to go with this issue. Maybe mediate the issue.
- John Swallow asked if there is anything we can learn from the court's judgment.
- Commissioner Blackham suggested settling the matter politically since he believes it can't be settled legally.

- Representative Noel suggested putting out press releases about how this ruling will devastate the wildlife herds. Also suggested forming an alliance with other state governors whose states are affected by the ruling.
- Lt. Governor asked if there was any hope of working with the Service.
- Lt. Governor, Commissioner Blackham, John Harja, and Mike Styler will get together to discuss the issue further.

#### **El Paso Pipeline Agreement – John Harja**

- Background: FERC and the BLM gave approval for the pipeline, then El Paso made an agreement with Western Watersheds Project and another group in Oregon for \$20 million.
- A multi-county coalition has formed to fight the agreement between El Paso and Western Watersheds Project.
- Commissioner McKee commented that they support the pipeline, but not the agreement.
- Only two entities would have standing as Cooperating Agencies: Lincoln County, WY, and the State of Utah.

#### **Prairie Dogs in Iron County – Mike Styler and Martin Bushman**

- Presence of the prairie dogs may be diminishing the value of the properties they infest.
- Martin Bushman suggested that Utah create a management plan explaining how Utah would manage the prairie dogs if Utah had the authority. Submit the plan and see what happens.
- Representative Noel made a motion to have Mike Styler put together the nuts and bolts of how a plan would be implemented and get back to the committee next month. John Swallow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Carter moved to go to closed session for the purpose of discussing litigation.  
Motion approved.

Returned to open session at 1:50 PM.

Next meeting set for late September or early October.

Meeting adjourned thereafter.